

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 700231



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 21 February 1970

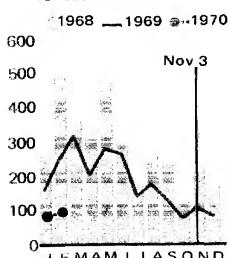
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

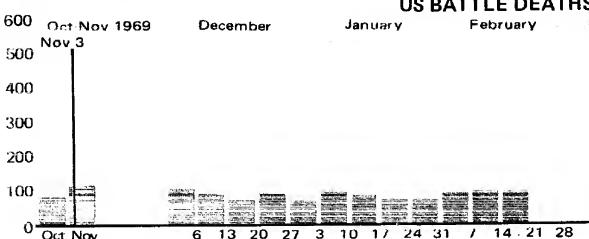
~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

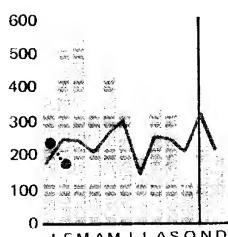
1968-1970

weekly average
for each month

OCTOBER 1969 - FEBRUARY 1970

weekly data as reported, Dec-Jan-Feb
weekly average per month, Oct-Nov

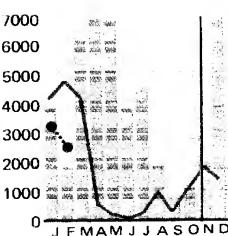
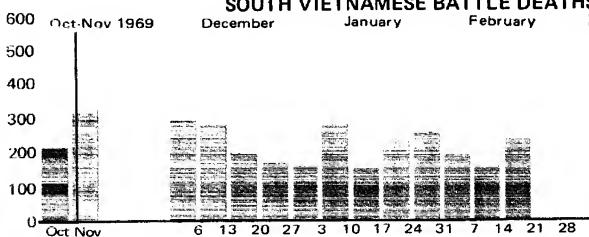
US BATTLE DEATHS stabilized this week at 96, the same number recorded for last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

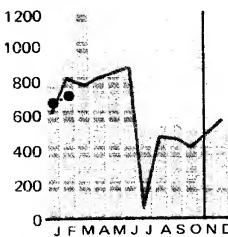
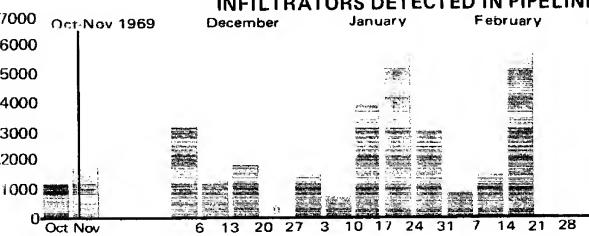
jumped to 225 from last weeks 157. The official total will

change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.



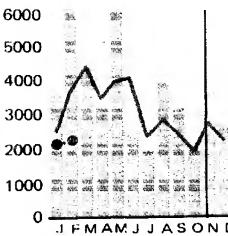
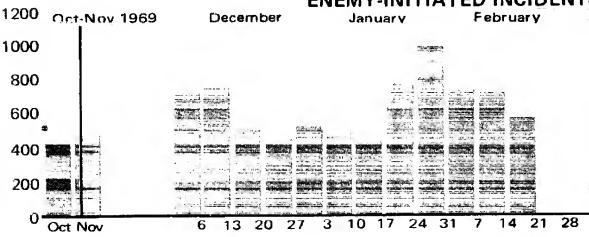
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

numbered more than 3800. Additionally, three "gap-fill" groups were added to the estimate bringing the total for the week to almost 5600. Nearly 40,000 infiltrators have now entered the pipeline since 23 October.



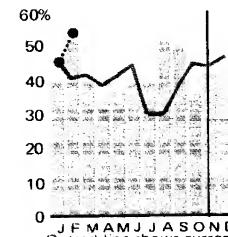
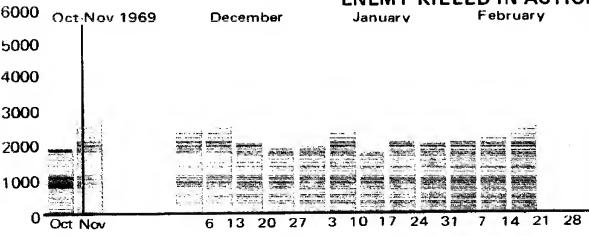
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

decreased to 575 from the previous week's 718.



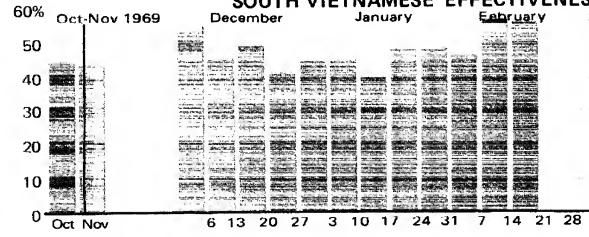
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

rose sharply to 2,469 from last week's 2,106.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces was 56% as compared to last week's 57%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

The sharp rise in enemy casualties during a week in which enemy-initiated activity declined significantly is largely the result of allied initiatives in the field. The main arena of combat activity during the week was in southern I Corps, where ARVN, with U. S. air and naval gunfire support, inflicted heavy casualties on Communist units.

Although there are no indications of an imminent country-wide offensive, reporting from a wide variety of sources continues to reflect attack planning by units in widely scattered areas. In the III Corps area, intercepted radio messages point to a possible high point to start on 27 February. According to a recently captured officer of a sapper battalion, the enemy intends to heighten his terrorist activity in Saigon.

Enemy Infiltration

25X1B

Inputs into the top of the infiltration pipeline surged during the week with seven battalion-size groups detected in North Vietnam. Additionally, eight small [REDACTED] were detected in Laos and three "gap fill" groups were accepted for a total for the week of 5,585. The infiltration estimate since 23 October 1969 now stands at nearly 40,000 personnel entering the pipeline in 84 groups. Fifty normal four-digit groups were detected in NVN, 23 in Laos, and 11 are "gap fills."

25X1X4

The rate of movement of infiltration groups has been affected, at least temporarily, by an influenza epidemic in North Vietnam and Laos and by an outbreak of cholera which appears to be spreading in the Laotian Panhandle. Messages since 12 February reveal that units at seven Binh Trams (infiltration way stations) have been infected by flu and that personnel from four infiltration groups were sick with the flu and were to remain at Binh Trams in North Vietnam. Additionally, by 19 February the 559th Transportation Group (south Laos infiltration controller) reported that cholera had spread "to half of the entire eastern region."

South Vietnam Developments

25X1X4

New evidence of the serious disruption being caused to the Communists' administrative apparatus in the III Corps area by the Phung Hoang (Phoenix) program has been received.

[REDACTED]
Twelve of the committee's 30 key cadre were killed or captured in a six-month period, and morale is reported to be close to "utter collapse." Recruiting has become increasingly difficult, and the committee is reduced to fabrication of military and political successes in order to sustain organizational esprit. In addition, a captured document states that the majority of party chapters in three other districts near Saigon have been "disintegrated" by allied operations and those party members who have not been captured or killed have rallied or fled.

Communist Developments

The announcement on 20 February that Le Duc Tho had "returned" to the headquarters of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris talks is the latest in a series of developments which tentatively suggest that the Communists may be planning new initiatives in the talks. A Soviet Embassy official has asserted that Tho returned to Paris in order to try to begin "sincere" talks, although the protocol problem would constitute an obstacle until the U. S. appointed a senior figure to head its delegation. Recent directives to the Communists in South Vietnam appear to be preparing the cadres for new tactics and an authoritative article by Party First Secretary Le Duan last month mentioned a strategy based on "the exploitation of enemy contradictions and on systematic concessions." The Hanoi leadership also recently praised their 1946 compromise agreements with France as providing them with a respite prior to the outbreak of the French-Indochina war. The import of these stirrings is unclear, but Hanoi seems to be laying the groundwork for intensified activity on the political-diplomatic front.

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